

Minutes of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission
March 25, 2013

Present:

MD: Marshall Dennis, Chairman
CP: Christopher Picone
AA: Alana Archangelo
AH: Andrew Henderson

Absent:

MP: Maureen Pollock, Conservation Agent

6:30 PM

MD opened the meeting of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission under the MA Wetland Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and in accordance with the Ashburnham Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations.

Other Business

Lorraine DeSousa, of the Ashburnham Conservation Trust and former Conservation Commission representative to the Mt. Watatic Management Committee was present to update the Commission about the Committee's activities. Lorraine asked the Commission whether there is anything they want to put on the Committee's meeting agenda. Lorraine discussed problems with snowmobile use on top of Mt. Watatic. With limited staff and the lack of enforcement for monitoring and stewardship, snowmobile activity has been a continued nuisance. Snowmobilers need to be caught in the act. The MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (MassDCR) have not been following their own procedures, allowing vegetation to grow in on the road and fields, and not mitigating erosion impacts.

Lorraine also noted that the Sweet Water Trust, one of the partnering land trusts that helped designate part of Mt. Watatic Reservation as a Forest Reserve, specified in its plan that the reserve would exclude commercial harvesting. MassDCR wanted to log the Forest Reserve in 2012.

Considering there are many concerns about the current conditions at Mt. Watatic, Lorraine noted that sending a representative to the Mt. Watatic Management Committee would be advisable. There is an upcoming meeting be held on Thursday, April 18th at 7pm, located at the Ashby Town Hall and on Thursday, October 17th .

6:45 PM

MD opened the public hearing for **Ashby Road (Map 31, Parcel 15)** filed by **Seth & Ally Wright** for a **Notice of Intent** pertaining to the proposed construction of a new single-family home, septic system, and driveway, portions of which are within the 100 foot buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands. Richard Wright, father and abutter to Seth Wright, was present at the meeting. MD asked who owns the existing culvert at the end of the driveway. The answer to this question was not known. Richard Wright questioned the integrity of the culvert; with the caution that the load of work trucks could exceed capacity during construction. MD discussed whether the replacement of the culvert should be done after construction reducing the chance for culvert damage. MD

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requested that the culvert to be drawn onto the site plan, the distance between the culvert and the edge of the pavement be measured and shown on the plan, and that the culvert diameter also be measured and shown on the plan.

MD- Motion to continue the public hearing to Monday, April 8th at 6:45
AA- Seconded
Unanimously passed 4-0

7:05 PM

MD opened the public hearing for **Russell Hill Road, Lot (Map 39, Parcel 29)**, filed by **Constance Jordan** for a **Notice of Intent** pertaining to the proposed construction of a new single-family home, septic system, well, and driveway, portions of which are within the 100 foot buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands. Chris Mossman, of Trowbridge Engineering, LLC was present at the meeting representing Ms. Jordan. MD requested the applicant to extend the silt fence area, and to keep extra silt fence on site.

MD- Motion to close the public hearing for Russell Hill Road, Lot 1
CP- Seconded
Unanimously passed 4-0

MD- Motion to issue an Order of Conditions per plan and discussion
CP- Seconded
Unanimously passed 4-0

7:15 PM

MD opened the public hearing for **7 Brown's Lake Road** – formerly known as 7 Bank Avenue (**Map 55, Parcel 76**), filed by **Cynthia A. Deveikis** for a **Notice of Intent** pertaining to the proposed reconstruction of an existing single-family home; and installation of a new deck, well, septic system, portions of which are within the 100 foot buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands. Ms. Deveikis, applicant; Chris Mossman, of Trowbridge Engineering; Paul Leroux and Maria French, both abutters to property; and Carleton B. Stillings, property owner of 7 Brown's Lake Road were present at the public hearing.

Mr. Mossman stated that the Board of Health has not approved the septic system yet, and the property will need many variances due to the number of wells in the abutting properties. The existing septic system needs to be pumped, crushed, and filled. Mr. Leroux expressed his concern about the new septic system and its impact on their well and the ability for him to build a new well. MD indicated that this was a Board of Health issue.

MD- Motion to close the public hearing for 7 Brown's Lake Road
CP- Seconded
Unanimously passed 4-0

MD- Motion to issue an Order of Conditions per plan and discussion
CP- Seconded

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Unanimously passed 4-0

7:30 PM

MD opened the public hearing for 44 Bluefield Road (Map 46, Parcel 32), filed by Lawrence Spering for a **Request for Determination of Applicability** pertaining to the installation of a replacement sewage disposal system within the 100 foot buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands. Mr. Spering was present at the public hearing.

The replacement sewage disposal system will be relocated from the backyard to the front of the house.

MD- Motion to close the public hearing for 44 Bluefield Road
CP- Seconded
Unanimously passed 4-0

MD- Motion to issue an Order of Conditions per plan and discussion
CP- Seconded
Unanimously passed 4-0

Other Business

The Commission discussed the proposed conversion of a single-family residence to a funeral home at 17 Main Street (Route 12) with 40 parking spaces. This facility would be within the riverfront area and buffer zone of Phillips Brook. MD noted that the State wetland regulations were being revised and that the revisions were extensive. He will keep the Commission informed in this regard.

7:55 PM

MD- Motion to adjourn
AA- Seconded
Unanimously passed 4-0

Respectfully submitted by Alana Archangelo, Conservation Commission Member,
March 25, 2013